

by the staff to render services to the patients. Citizen Charters have been implemented in Government hospitals. Grievance officers have also been designated to redress various complaints received.

Information Bank on Herbal Medicines

260. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would create an information bank on ancient herbal medicines, to help avoid confusion by foreign patent offices;

(b) if so, by when and the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The establishment of a Traditional Knowledge Digital Library for Ayurveda has been approved whereby a data base in a patent compatible format is in the process of preparation to forestall patents being given for what is already, in the public domain. No time limit has been fixed but it is expected to be completed in a year.

(c) Does not arise.

Utility of traditional medicines and medical practices

261. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan for proper utilization of the traditional methods of tribal and non-tribal medicines and practices for treatment of common ailments and fertility control in the North-Eastern States;

(b) whether Government are aware of the usefulness of these traditional medicines and practices which are followed since ancient times; and